

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 3, and 16 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (Currently Amended) A network system comprising:

an internal configuration database process for managing configuration of internal resources within a network device in response to configuration input provided by an external Network Management System (NMS),

a plurality of modular processes executing on said network device that communicate with the internal configuration database to access configuration data, wherein the processes use the configuration data to modify execution behavior,

a database maintained by said external NMS for storing a copy of data contains in said internal configuration database,

wherein said internal configuration database supports an active query feature and the NMS database is configured to establish an active query for one or more records within the internal configuration database such that the internal database sends a notification to the NMS database upon occurrence of a change in any of said records so as to synchronize the NMS database with the interface,

wherein said internal configuration database process utilizes assigned process identification numbers for flexible naming of said network device that allows applications to use data in the configuration database to determine the names of other applications and configurable objects, such that re-start or upgrade of said network device or one of said plurality of modular processes is transparent to other said plurality of modular processes, with the exception of being notified of new process identification numbers.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a network device comprising:

an internal configuration database for managing configuration of internal resources within the network device;

a computer system comprising:

an input mechanism for receiving configuration input data from a network manager; and

a Network Management System (NMS) process for responding to the configuration input data and for sending configuration data to the configuration database within the network device;

an NMS database maintained on said computer system in synchrony with said internal configuration database of the network device;

wherein the configuration database process within the network device configures internal resources of the network device in response to the configuration data received from the NMS and wherein the configuration database supports an active query feature and the NMS database is configured to establish an active query for all records within the configuration database to synchronize the NMS database with the configuration database and wherein for any change to the configuration data stored by the configuration database, the configuration database sends a notification of the change to the NMS database within the computer system to synchronize the NMS database with the configuration database,

wherein said internal configuration database process utilizes assigned process identification numbers for flexible naming of said network device that allows applications to use data in the configuration database to determine the names of other applications and configurable objects, such that re-start or upgrade of said network device or one of said plurality of modular processes is transparent to other said plurality of modular processes, with the exception of being notified of new process identification numbers.

4. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 3, wherein the internal NMS database comprises a process for tracking configuration information stored by the configuration database within the network device.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 4, wherein the change notification sent to the NMS database by the configuration database includes data representing the change to the configuration data.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The communications system of claim 3, wherein the NMS process communicates with the configuration database through a standard database protocol.

9. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the NMS process also communicates with the NMS database through the standard database protocol.

10. (Original) The communication system of claim 8, wherein the standard database protocol comprises a Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) protocol.

11. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the computer system comprises a workstation.

12. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the computer system comprises a personal computer.

13. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the network device is a switch.

14. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the network device is a router.

15. (Original) The communications system of claim 8, wherein the network device is a hybrid switch-router.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a network device, comprising:

- receiving configuration input data from a network manager through an input mechanism on a computer system independent of the network device,
- assigning process identification numbers for flexible naming of said network device that allows applications to use data in the configuration database to determine the names of other applications and configurable objects, such that re-start or upgrade of said network device or one of a plurality of modular processes is transparent to other said plurality of modular processes,
- operating on the received configuration input data to generate configuration data;
- sending the configuration data to a configuration database process within the network device for storage in a configuration database;
- configuring internal resources within the network device in response to the generated configuration data,
- maintaining an NMS database within said network manager in synchronization with said configuration database,
- establishing an active query for all records within the configuration database for the NMS database, and
- sending notifications of changes to data stored within the configuration database to a Network Management System (NMS) database process executing on the computer system to synchronize the NMS database with the configuration database.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein sending the generated configuration data to the configuration database process includes using a standard database protocol.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said processes establishes an active query with the internal configuration database to receive a notification therefrom upon occurrence of one or more changes in said internal database.